

Edwards,Michelle

From: Susan Tingley <stingley1998@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 12:32 PM
To: Edwards,Michelle
Subject: EXTERNAL -City Council Meeting Feedback

****External Email. - Think Before You Click**** --
Help Desk

Hi Michelle, would you please forward this to all of the City Council members? Thanks!

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to give you feedback on the recent rezoning request that I was involved in for 1930 S Center Street. I have mulled this over for weeks and decided it was important to let you know my thoughts for future proceedings.

First, thank you for voting against the rezoning request. You did the right thing for our neighborhood. I know you all gave this a lot of thought, and it was very much appreciated.

My biggest concern about this process is that my neighbors and I had to be involved at all. I'm pretty sure if we hadn't shown up or contacted the Council members, this rezoning request would have passed. But that's not fair to residents in our city. I feel like the onus was put on us to point out that the petitioner did not meet the hardships required for the rezoning request. I personally put in a lot of time making sure our neighbors were aware of the rezoning petition and what the requirements were that would allow it to pass. I spent over \$50 on printing and postage. I'm retired and have the means to participate at this level...not every neighborhood has someone who can do that.

The Unified Ordinance of Vigo County exists for a reason, and it makes relatively clear what the requirements are for zoning. On top of that, the Vigo County Area Planning Department is charged with enforcing the zoning codes. In our case, this department gave an unfavorable recommendation, with very clear reasons, in a memo. In addition, the City Engineering Department also gave an unfavorable recommendation.

I showed up to the Council meeting prepared to discuss the hardships required for the rezoning and that those hardships were not met. There was some discussion to that effect – Councilmen Nation and Elliott stand out in my memory. I was a little shocked that most of the discussion was about how nice the petitioner was and what a great job they did renovating the property (the majority of which was actually done by a realty company out of Spencer, IN and was completed before the petitioner purchased the property this past July) and what a “nice, quiet” business it would be. There was even discussion about how this property, if not rezoned, could turn into a rental – something, it was stated, we would all regret. The biggest shocker came when the neighbors and I were admonished with “Be careful what you wish for.”

I put it to the Council Members that you have accepted the responsibility to protect our neighborhoods by following the zoning codes and relying on guidance from the city/county departments that exist to enforce those codes. Future rezoning requests should not be put to the test of how many neighbors speak out for or against them. Decisions should not be based on the flowery language of the petitioner's attorney, who, I might add, is not under any requirement to speak the truth.

In closing, I appreciate the work you do and how difficult it must be at times. If you would like to discuss my feedback, please feel free to contact me via email or by phone at 812-512-4914.

Sincerely,

Susan Tingley